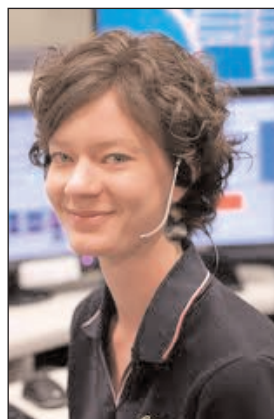




FIRE SAFETY AND BURN PREVENTION

“This is 9-1-1, what’s your emergency?”

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The idea for 9-1-1 first came about in 1957, when the National Association of Fire Chiefs wanted to establish a nationwide number for people to use to report fires. Over the next few decades, it was determined that a single number for reporting all emergencies made more sense than having a different number

for each type of emergency.

Years ago, people had to find the right phone number in an emergency. If there was a fire, people phoned the fire department. If there was a crime, people called the police. If someone got hurt, an ambulance had to be called. Finding a number for any of these emergency workers could be very confusing - especially if a person

was in a hurry or did not know where they were calling from.

The numbers 9-1-1 were chosen for a number of reasons: it's short, it's easy to remember and it was not yet assigned as an area code or any other telephone-related number.

When the 9-1-1 system was originally introduced, it was advertised as the “nine-eleven” service. This was then changed when concerns were expressed that some callers, such as smaller children, might waste important emergency response time trying to find a non-existent “eleven” key on their telephone.

When emergencies happen, you want to get help fast. Dialing 9-1-1 on your telephone is the fastest way you can get help for yourself or someone else. With those three numbers, you can reach the fire department, the police or an ambulance. When you call 9-1-1, an emergency operator, called a dispatcher, immediately connects you to the person you need.

When should you call 9-1-1?

Do **NOT** call 9-1-1:

- if someone dares you to call,
- if you've lost your dog,
- as a joke or to see what might happen.

When the emergency dispatcher has to take the time to talk to people who don't have a real emergency, other people who call and do need help right away might have to wait.

Times you **SHOULD** call 9-1-1 are:

- if your house or another house is on fire,
- if someone suddenly seems very sick and is having a hard time speaking or breathing or turns blue,
- if there's a car accident.

The best way to handle an emergency is to be prepared before one happens - know your own address and phone number. The 9-1-1 operator must know exactly where you are and how to reach you. The firefighters, police or ambulance crew need to know where you are in order to help you. If you ever have to call 9-1-1, speak slowly and clearly and **DO NOT** hang up.

ACTIVITY

- ◆ Think of at least two other situations where you would call 9-1-1 and write these down.
- ◆ Find someone who has had to call 9-1-1 in an emergency. Interview this person and find out “who, what where, when and why” about their emergency call to 9-1-1.

FIRE SAFETY QUIZ:

1. When trying to put out a small electrical fire, the only fire extinguisher you should use is:
 - a. Class A
 - b. Class B
 - c. Class C
2. You should never call 911 in a:
 - a. fire
 - b. car accident
 - c. dare
3. Children as young as two years old are capable of lighting cigarettes.



rette lighters and matches.

- a. True
- b. False

4. Which of the following statements is wrong?
 - a. After you get outside, don't go back inside for anything.
 - b. After you get outside, meet your family at your meeting place.
 - c. After you get outside, it is ok to go back inside to find your pet.
5. You should choose a meeting place outside of your home that is:
 - a. away from the road and driveway.
 - b. across the street.
 - c. in front of a tree.



extinguisher.

- b. have a home fire escape plan and a smoke alarm.
- c. know the phone number of the fire department.
7. Fires require:
 - a. oxygen, fuel and matches.
 - b. oxygen, fuel and heat.
 - c. fuel, heat and matches.
8. When you see smoke coming from under a door you should:

6. For your family's safety, it is most important to:

- a. have a fire

- a. feel the door to see if it is hot.
- b. open the door slightly to see if there is a fire.
- c. yell for help.
9. If you are on the 10th floor of a burning building, you should get out by:
 - a. using the elevator.
 - b. using the window.
 - c. using the stairs.
10. Part of a fire escape plan includes quickly grabbing your valuables as you exit your home.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Answers: 1C, 2C, 3A, 4C, 5A, 6B, 7B, 8A, 9C, 10B

FIRE SAFETY VOCABULARY

- ◆ **ambulance** - a special vehicle used to transport injured people, usually to the hospital.
- ◆ **dispatcher** - a person who send out messages quickly.
- ◆ **enunciate** - to speak clearly and distinctly.
- ◆ **evacuate** - to remove people from a dangerous area to safety.
- ◆ **fuel** - combustible matter used to maintain a fire.
- ◆ **hazard** - an unavoidable danger or risk.
- ◆ **operator** - a person who operates a telephone switchboard.



When you depress a lever at the top of the cylinder, the smothering material is forced out under pressure, similar to the way an aerosol can works.

Fire extinguishers are best used when a fire is contained in a small area, like a wastebasket, and when the fire department has already been called.

Fires require heat, oxygen and fuel. A fire extinguisher is designed to remove at least one of these elements so that a fire will die out. A fire extinguisher is also an absolute necessity in any home or office.

Fire extinguishers are sturdy metal cylinders filled with a smothering material.

You can be prepared for any accidents by having fire extinguishers strategically placed around the house such as, the basement, the garage, workshop area and specifically in the kitchen. The one in the kitchen should be an all-purpose extinguisher, or one that can be used in grease and electrical fires.

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) says to remember the word PASS when operating an extinguisher.

Pull the pin. Release the lock with the nozzle pointing away from you.

Aim low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.

Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.

Sweep the nozzle from side to side.

There are four categories of fire extinguishers:

Class A - extinguishes combustibles such as paper, wood, cardboard and most plastics.

Class B - extinguishes fires that involve flammable liquids such as gasoline, grease

and oil.

Class C - extinguishers involve electrical equipment such as, appliances, wiring and outlets. Never use water to extinguish class C fires because the risk of electrical shock is too great.

Class D - are commonly found in chemical labs.

The best time to learn how to use a fire extinguisher is before you ever need it. If you are ever in doubt about whether to use an extinguisher on a fire, don't try it. Instead leave the house immediately and call the fire department.

ACTIVITY

- ◆ Do you have a fire extinguisher at home? If so, where and do you have one in the kitchen?
- ◆ What type of extinguisher do you have: type A, B, C or D and what is the expiration date?



DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ Why are fire hydrants different colors? The color of a fire hydrant is determined by how quickly and how much water flows out of that hydrant. Knowing the flow rate of a fire hydrant tells firefighters how much water it can provide for firefighting. There are four basic colors of fire hydrants:
- ◆ **Red hydrants** - put out less than 500 gallons of water per minute.
- ◆ **Yellow hydrants** - have a flow rate between 500 and 999 gallons per minute.
- ◆ **Green hydrants** - are able to generate between 1000 and 1500 gallons per minute.
- ◆ **Blue or light blue hydrants** - run at a flow rate of 1500 gallons per minute or higher.

Source: usfa.fema.gov



Fire prevention message

Understanding the importance of fire safety and burn prevention is a message everyone, young and old, should observe.

Each Monday in October, this page will focus on fire safety and burn prevention information sponsored by the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance. Thousands of students throughout Illinois will learn more about how to prevent a fire from occurring.

Fire deaths and injuries can be prevented.

For information on IFSA's Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program, contact:
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